



# Public Affairs Office

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March 29, 2001

Rel. No.: 03-29-01

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CORPS CUTS FLOWS FROM FALLS DUE TO HEAVY SPRING RAINS**

**WILMINGTON, N.C.** -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reduced the flow from Falls Lake from 3,130 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 515 cfs yesterday, and again to 155 cfs this morning, to curb outflows from the Falls Reservoir while spring rains blanket the lower Neuse River Basin.

"There's ample storage in the Lake," said Falls Water Control Manager Daniel Emerson. "We are about two feet into the flood storage pool now, which gives us more than 11 feet of flood storage remaining. Our goal is to reduce project flows into the Lower Neuse, and give the rain time to clear out of the basin." Neuse River stage at Goldsboro is falling, while at Kinston, the river is slowly cressing and may rise further with forecasted rain. Water from Falls Reservoir takes seven to nine days to reach Kinston.

About two inches more rain are expected in the lower Neuse, Cape Fear River, and Roanoke River basins today and tomorrow.

"The rains are actually benefiting the upper Roanoke Basin," Emerson said. Philpott Lake, located in Bassett, Virginia, has gained nearly 1.5 feet of water from the rains. "The lake is still 5 feet lower than guide curve," Emerson said, but it is slowly coming back up. The rise is good news for recreationists who visit Philpott Lake, which has been dryer than normal for the past two recreation seasons.

"This action at Falls is just part of normal operations for our flood control reservoirs," said Terry Brown, Water Control Manager for the Wilmington District. "We monitor water levels in our reservoirs and river basins constantly. This adjustment is being done to minimize upper Neuse River contributions to the rainfall that's happening downstream."

Current lake levels and releases for Corps projects in the Wilmington District are available on the Internet at **<http://epec.saw.usace.army.mil>**